

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/165 W

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R 041500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5177

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0146

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ALL REFERENCES TO "ROC" IN
NUMBERED PARA 4 CORRECTED TO READ "ROK RPT ROK")

E.O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, KN

SUBJ: GABON ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: LIBREVILLE 0115

1. GOG ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY FEBRUARY 4 ESTABLISHMENT
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND INTENTION
TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING DECISION NOTED MUTUAL
DESIRE DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS AND TO COOPERATE ON
BASIS OF COMPLETE EQUALITY, RECIPROCAL ADVANTAGE,
MUTUAL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMUNIQUE SIGNED MYBY MINISTER OF STATE (FOREIGN
AFFAIRS) RAWIRI FOR GABON AND BY KIN SENUNG HYEUK,
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NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR Q MAURITANIA.

4. ROK CHARGE GAVE EMBASSY FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
DETAILS FEBRUARY 4:

A. HE SPOKE WITH MFA SEC GEN ADANDE FEBRUARY 2.
ADANDE EXPLAINED THAT RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA
SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF GABON'S POLICY OF
OPENNESS WHICH MEANS IT CAN ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH
ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. ADANDE ESTIMATED THAT
RESIDENT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR WOULD ARRIVE IN
LIBREVILLE WITHIN TWO MONTHS. HE OFFERED NO ASSURANCES
CONCERNING THE STATE OF ROK-GABONESE RELATIONS NOR DID
ROK CHARGE SEEK THEM.

B. ROK CHARGE HAS REPORTED RECOGNITION TO HIS
GOVERNMENT, RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE OF ROC MISSION
HERE, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY.

C. ROK AT CONSIDERABLE DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE AT BEST
IT WILL HAVE NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. TIMING IS ALSO
UNFORTUNATE IN THAT CURRENT ROC AMBASSADOR (PARIS)
WILL BE REPLACED END OF FEBRUARY. POSSIBILITY EXISTS
THAT GABON WILL NOT GRANT HIS SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT OR
THAT SEOUL WILL SIMPLY NOT SEEK ONE.

D. ROK CHARGE FELT THERE NO BASIC DIFFICULTY IN
MAINTAINING MISSION HERE BECAUSE AMPLE PRESIDENCE
EXISTS. SENEGAL, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, ZAIRE, NIGERIA
AND CAMEROON ALL HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS FROM BOTH
KOREAS.

E. GOG SOURCE (UNDISCLOSED) HAS TOLD ROK CHARGE
THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE PROMISED CONSIDERABLE AID
IN MATERIEL FOR TRANSGABON RAILROAD IN EXCHANGE FOR
RECOGNITION. MCKESSON

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